

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 233-0696
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6181

BILL NUMBER: HB 1455

NOTE PREPARED: Mar 31, 2009

BILL AMENDED: Mar 24, 2009

SUBJECT: Autism Training.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Tyler

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Miller

BILL STATUS: As Passed Senate

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill requires certain firefighter and law enforcement personnel to be trained in interacting with individuals with autism.

The bill also requires the Department of Education to create and distribute to school corporations for noncertificated employees a document that explains the aspects of autism including behaviors students with autism exhibit.

Effective Date: (Amended) July 1, 2009; January 10, 2010.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill will change minimum training requirements for law enforcement personnel and firefighters to better prepare officers to interact with individuals with autism. Currently, curriculum offered by the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy (LEA) to law enforcement personnel and curriculum offered by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to firefighters does not include autism training. This legislation will impact both the minimum required training and recertification curriculum offered by both DHS and LEA to law enforcement officers and firefighters. The legislation states that autism training is to be provided in addition to other types of training currently offered by the LEA and DHS. These provisions will increase the workload of the LEA and DHS to provide autism training to personnel to the extent that this training was not offered before.

The LEA reports that current curriculum offered provides law enforcement officers with training for certain disabilities and afflictions, but not autism. LEA reports that providing autism training can be included in the current training curriculum within current resource levels.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provides training to firefighters and emergency medical service technicians (EMS). Currently, autism training is not offered to firefighters, but is offered to EMS personnel. DHS reports that providing autism training to firefighters in addition to EMS workers will result in no additional expense to the state. The cost of duplicating autism training material used in the programs offered by DHS are within the operating budget of the department.

(Revised) The bill will also increase the workload of the Department of Education to create and distribute to local school corporations a document explaining aspects of autism. Increases in workload are expected to be minimal.

Background Information: Currently, the LEA requires 24 hours of recertification training for law enforcement officers, of which the following courses require 2 hours of training; firearms, emergency vehicle training, and physical tactics/use of force. Local law enforcement agency administrators decide recertification courses for officers outside of the designated training hours.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Any impact to local expenditures to provide training would depend on whether a local unit of government would be required to pay for additional course work necessary to fulfill the provisions of the bill. Depending on local action, the impact to unit expenditures could range from no financial involvement to complete payment of all autism course fees for their firefighting personnel.

(Revised) This bill will increase the workload of local school corporations to provide any documents related to autism that are provided by the Department of Education to noncertificated employees. Increases in workload are expected to be minimal.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Law Enforcement Academy; State Police; Department of Homeland Security; Department of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: Local law enforcement and firefighters.

Information Sources: Indiana Commission on Autism Meeting Minutes 9/10/2008; Rusty Goodpaster, Indiana Law Enforcement Academy, 837-3229; Julia Fox, Indiana Department of Homeland Security, 234-4481.

Fiscal Analyst: Bill Brumbach, 232-9559.